Hello everyone,

My name is Andrea MacDougall, and on behalf of the entire AUC community, I would like to welcome the 2013 - 2014 Presidential Interns to The American University in Cairo (AUC).

I have been living in Egypt for five years and am still fascinated and amazed by this incredible country and its people. I am originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and it goes without saying that Egypt is very different from the east coast of Canada. But that is what makes living here so fascinating! I have been privileged to get to know some amazing people and to explore this incredible country. It is my hope that you will not only have a valuable professional experience, but also have a great cultural experience.

Together I expect we can work together to make your time in Egypt a positive and fun one.

When student protesters chained the gates of AUC closed for more than two weeks, many of the students, faculty and staff of the University did not know what to think.

Students called for better education and lower tuition. The administration responded by reminding everyone that AUC is one of the best institutions in the region and that the University is already running a deficit. The administration held emergency meetings in order to salvage the semester, frantically trying to put an online system into place. At the same time, they were meeting with students in order to negotiate an end to the strikes.

The interns, being new to Egypt, did not know what to think. So, as we sat outside under the Cairo sun, we talked to anyone we could about what was happening. At the very least, we knew we were witnessing AUC history being made.

Even though the events of Fall 2012 will have an impact on the University for years to come, in the end, the University came together as a family.
As a linguistics major that studied Spanish and Arabic yet didn’t study abroad, I arrived in Cairo very excited to hear Arabic in action, especially in my office at AUC. Though now somewhat estranged from the world of scholarly articles on vowel formation and double-object constructions and the like, the scholar in me still marvels at the ways English and Arabic interact in my daily life.

Any notions I had of working in an Arabic immersion environment were quickly reconsidered after my first few days in the Office of Communications. If any part of AUC should have the strongest English skills, it’s this one, but that hardly means that I never hear Arabic — in fact, I hear it all the time. My colleagues slip flawlessly between the two languages, maintaining a conversation with me in English and another in Arabic with someone else. Even a single dialogue can alternate between the two, often for reasons inexplicable to me (words spoken in Arabic in italics):

“This headline is too long. What should we do?”
“I don’t know. Can we take out this word?”
“Okay. Okay. Let’s do that.”

In editorial meetings, the sentences come fast and furious in both languages, my superiors often beginning their trains of thought in the language the previous speaker used, only to shift gears mid-sentence without missing a beat. They are all clearly accustomed to this code-switching, and the challenge of following along is both amusing and invigorating. On the occasions that I have something to contribute, my English-speaking male voice sounds strange in a mostly-female, mostly Egyptian room. In all-office meetings, when people of varying English abilities are assembled for updates on the department’s goals and progress, we revert to English for the sake of the two native English speakers in the room, and I remember again what an unusual place AUC is.

Outside of the office, language is a different matter, complicated by the uncertainties of how much English the other speaker may know. Buying koshari or giving a taxi driver directions means using Arabic only, but ordering a sit-down meal in Zamalek often results in one of those awkward transitions: “Please, I want the mixed grill with French fries.” I’m proud of the progress I’ve made with Arabic, so there’s something frustrating about the English-only menus that appear frequently in our part of town.

Although the deck is in some ways stacked against us, it all boils down to persistence and patience. When my tutor tries to explain something to me in English, I always respond in Arabic, and, like a switch was flipped, he reverts to his native tongue. Nevertheless, learning Arabic often seems a Sisyphean task. I think often of something a professor once told me: “After about ten years of studying a language is when you really start to take off.” My first year of learning Arabic on the ground has shown me how far there is to go — and thankfully, it’s inspired me to keep trying.
Cairo traffic is congested. Wait, that's an understatement. Cairo traffic is hectic. Cairo traffic would make a hormonal, thrill-seeking sixteen-year-old boy hang up the keys and leave the Mustang in the garage. It's NASCAR on steroids, sprinkled with buses and construction equipment, blanketed in smog and noise, and mixed with thousands of daring souls, who play real-life Frogger everyday as they cross through traffic on foot. Cairo traffic is the reason my daily round-trip commute to work ranges unpredictably from two to three hours. Thus Cairo traffic is a main source of much of my frustration.

Yet, at the same time...

Cairo traffic is fascinating. Well, in the abstract sense. Cairo traffic is organized chaos. Cairo traffic would outperform Barnum and Bailey's, out-stunt Evel Knievel, and redefine 2Fast2Furious. It's the embodiment of free market economics with few traffic lights — fewer that are even respected — and no enforcement of traffic laws as people practice the five D's of dodgeball (dodge, duck, dip, dive and DODGE!) through Cairo traffic with such finesse and grace. Cairo traffic is in equilibrium, and thus Cairo traffic is beautiful.

Unlike my colleagues, I arrived in Cairo last August with no knowledge of Arabic and only slightly more knowledge about the region. I was drawn to the program because of the adventure of living and learning in a place so different from my small town home in Iowa, while setting a foundation for my career in higher education administration. Little did I know that each and every day would be filled with its own adventure of navigating, enduring, and avoiding Cairo traffic.

Cairo traffic is a fitting microcosm of life in Cairo. It's grinding and, if you let it be, overwhelmingly frustrating. On days when everything goes uncharacteristically right, the joy is uncontainable and equally overwhelming. The key to serenity is to learn to ride out the highs and lows without falling to the extremes. It is important to stay positive and even more important not to assume one positive experience will repeat itself the next day.

With this as my mantra, I've taken advantage of the long and unpredictable commute to read books that I was otherwise too busy to read in college, study Arabic and occasionally, if the person next to me doesn't have their headphones on, make small talk with them about must-see places in Egypt, the latest political protests, our favorite restaurants or, if all else fails, Cairo traffic.
Cairo is one of those innately confusing cities, and it continues to baffle the most intrepid of travelers. Those who haven’t grown up among its winding streets, hectic souqs and many smoky cafes often find themselves confounded by the seemingly illogical logic of Cairo. The streets run in circles, the roads remain unlabeled (and sometimes unpaved), and things close and open without warning or reason. Learning to navigate this city is always a challenge, and I tend to spend more time looking for my destination than actually spending time there.

Of course, this confusion is all part of the allure of Cairo. The journey is far more important than the destination and arriving somewhere hours late is neither an issue nor unexpected. I’ve found that the search is generally the most interesting part of the trip, and I learn the most about Cairo when I’m wandering through the streets — seeing what many would term “real Cairo” — than I do in countless museums, historical mosques and monuments. Though I don’t often have the time to do it, one of my favorite activities is semi-aimless wandering, since a new café, shop or interesting site is generally hidden just around the corner.

One memorable time, my friend and I decided to walk over to the AUC clinic to get our mandatory HIV tests; however, we were still a little new to the country and even getting from Zamalek to Tahrir proved to be outside our abilities. So of course, we got a little lost trying to take a shortcut and ended up wandering down unpaved streets full of packs of wild dogs and broods of chickens… and of course, lots and lots of curious stares. It was also the best experience I had during my first three weeks in the country. I learned a lot just by walking up and down the streets. Most importantly, always pay attention to the guy yelling “لا، لا، لا!” when you start walking down a deserted-looking alley.

We did finally find Tahrir… sort of. Since we had been searching for hours and thought we were still far away from our destination, we decided to get a taxi… After flagging one down and telling the driver our destination, the taxi driver laughed, pointed across the street, and said, “That’s the Egyptian museum. You’re already here. Do you still need a ride?”

Living in Cairo requires more perseverance and patience than living in a different, easier city, but Cairo has always been worth it. The magic of the city and its people has always drawn, and will continue to draw, people from all over the world to its dusty but storied streets.
Even worse, I would often get distracted during job interviews and start going off on tangents about academic subjects that I found interesting. Clearly, I didn’t fit the conventional mold of a businessperson and the transition from academia to reality was going to be particularly difficult for me. Fortunately, I came across the Presidential Internship program.

The Presidential Internship program has been a unique way to make the transition from Swarthmore to the working world. Working at AUC’s finance office in particular has allowed me to explore the business world while remaining firmly grounded in an academic setting. I am also beginning to realize that business is just another manifestation of the social sciences, and can be just as intellectually engaging as any seminar or class.

While I have learned a lot in the Presidential Internship program in terms of particular skills, perhaps the most important lesson I have learned is that there is much more to the business world than I initially imagined, and that it may even be a long-term career.

As an undergraduate at Swarthmore, I always considered the business world pure anathema. I envisioned businessmen as self-important egotists in expensive suits who spoke in nothing but meaningless business jargon. My friends and I would always joke that we were going to set up a consulting firm with the slogan “We use horizontal integration to leverage multinational synergy strategies for win-win best of breed outcomes while avoiding failure modes without regard for externality impacts on non-shareholder interests.”

At the same time, there was a little part of me that actually found business and finance interesting — not that I would ever admit it in front of my Swarthmore colleagues. I occasionally found myself browsing through business school course catalogues online just out of curiosity, though I would immediately clear my browser history out of shame. My interest in business was further piqued by an international political economy honors seminar I took in my junior year. I was beginning to have a strange feeling that maybe the business world wasn’t so bad, but I still wasn’t entirely convinced either.

As I neared graduation and began searching for opportunities, I began to realize that I would have to compromise my “values” in some way. I applied to a number of jobs, but there wasn’t anything that I felt particularly attracted toward. Aside from the immediate fear of unemployment, I was deeply worried that I would end up in a job where I would have to use the word “synergy” with a straight face.
Development is a field that every year draws countless bright-eyed college graduates to remote African villages and humid Latin American pueblos. It is a broad enough sector to attract professionals from every academic discipline, and is even becoming a commonplace major in universities. When I arrived in Cairo to work at the Desert Development Center (DDC) at AUC, I was particularly eager to get some development experience in the context of renewable energy, yet unsure what form it would come in. After all, there is a reason only three percent of Egypt’s enormous land holdings are cultivated, as developing even a sliver of a desert is an immensely complex task. One of our projects at the DDC this year has been to supply the remote oasis village of Abu Minqar with a reliable electricity feed. As I quickly learned, the challenges that come with such a task are not limited to the domain of engineers alone.

Like most novices, my first thought was to harness the power of the sun. However, the prices of the raw photovoltaic materials are uniquely prohibitive in Egypt, mainly due to the government’s heavy subsidization of its energy industry (contrast this to neighboring Israel, whose economics naturally began favoring solar power decades ago). Our focus instead turned to using hydroelectric power and bio-gas from cow manure. Convincing the conservative community that manure could be used this way had taken serious effort in the first place. Then, the site of the bio-gas reactor had to be relocated last minute, after the death of some cows during transport to the oasis convinced the intended proprietor that the evil eye had fallen upon his land.

Such examples have shown me how placing one’s faith in a top-down approach to development (especially in the energy context) is a bit naïve when each region has its own unique set of challenges that cannot possibly be comprehensively alleviated with a single, silver bullet solution. In this particular scenario, the challenges range from ingrained communal attitudes, superstitions and resistance to change, to simply the sheer remoteness of the location in question and the ensuing difficulty these poses for maintaining deployed technologies. Furthermore, developing countries by definition lack the kind of competent or transparent high-level institutions that would be necessary to enact such grand solutions in the first place. Egypt’s post-revolutionary turmoil will likely endure for the foreseeable future, and while the dust settles, it is doubtful that the government will make substantial strides in improving the quality of life of its citizens. Yet as efforts such as those of the DDC consistently demonstrate, it remains wholly feasible to make incremental advances in this area on a case-by-case basis, community by community. In the end, that’s where the real development happens.
While standing next to the massive structure of the Great Pyramid, I gazed in amazement at the huge stone blocks and the towering sight. I was startled when a souvenir hawker ran over to me waving postcards, tiny plastic pyramids and guidebooks. I shook my head and firmly said “la shukran,” or “no, thank you,” and briskly walked away. While making my escape, I heard him complain in Arabic to a fellow seller, “It was better under Mubarak.”

I had heard stories about the vibrant tourism in Cairo and throughout Egypt before the January 25 Revolution. Foreigners on Nile cruise vacations stood in unending lines to enter Karnak Temple. Enthusiasts of ancient Egypt bustled over each other in order to gaze at the famous treasures of King Tut. The famed Khan El-Khalili bazaar buzzed with the ever-escalating voices of bargaining shoppers and merchants. However, following the revolution, Egyptian tourism has suffered under economic downturn and political uncertainty.

During the March break, my family came to visit me in Egypt, and we toured Cairo, Luxor and Aswan. While I previously had gone on my own excursions to the Citadel and Coptic Cairo, this time I had the company of my family and the benefit of guided tours. We were some of the only tourists at many of our destinations. We breezed through ticket lines and entrances, and had front row seats to some of the best sights in Egypt. We never had to wait long to walk through security or linger behind other tourists as we studied the bodies of the pharaohs. At one point, my father said he was the only person in the animal mummy room at the Egyptian Museum.

While on a tour of Islamic Cairo with my family, our tour guide, Reham, led us through the winding streets as we admired the mosques and hidden pathways. Suddenly, Reham hurried us along our route and offered clipped explanations of a few sights as we walked at a brisk pace. After concluding our tour, Reham explained with a nervous laugh that a small group of tour guides had organized a strike in Islamic Cairo in order to voice their concerns regarding the effects of the unstable political environment on the nation’s tourism and, more specifically, the tour guides’ paychecks. Reham said that she felt awkward; she was one of the lucky ones. She had a tour group, even if it only consisted of three people.

As someone who endures Cairo traffic to and from AUC every weekday, I cannot help but breathe a sigh of relief to be able to see the big sights with relative ease and minimal crowds. It is easy to get lost in thought staring at Tahrir Square from the top of Cairo Tower, but on the ground, you can’t always ignore the stark reality of Egyptian tourism as shopkeepers and tour guides struggle to make ends meet.

Kate, Georgetown ’12, hopes to see more of the world while working in the higher education field.
Sitting in the sun after being locked outside of AUC’s New Cairo campus wasn’t exactly what I had envisioned when I pictured working in Cairo. Conversations with my supervisor during the interview process had excited me about becoming a part of the AUC administration as it grappled not only with the difficulties and opportunities presented by the situation in Egypt, but also with the rapidly changing landscape of higher education. Little did I know that my first foray into higher education issues in Egypt would involve managing the fallout of a divisive strike that threatened to end the fall semester.

Three weeks into working at AUC, we interns received our first taste of protest in Egypt. Students protesting over tuition hikes and other grievances had chained the campus gates, blocking access to the New Cairo campus from September 20 to October 1, 2012. Their primary grievance was a seven percent tuition increase that dovetailed with student concerns over financial transparency and demands for greater student influence in budgeting and administrative decision making processes.

In the buildup to the strike, Facebook and Twitter (possibly the most useful sources for breaking news in Egypt) had buzzed with rumors about student frustrations and the possibility of an escalation. Throughout the strike, I continued to follow online debates and engage friends who often held bitterly different views. As someone who had been involved with reforms for administrative transparency during my days in college, I was sympathetic with some of the basic demands laid out by striking students. However, a closer look at both the demands and aftermath of the strike raises important questions about the strike as well as the politics of protest in Egypt more generally.

The strike involved a number of student constituencies, just as street protests in Egypt have cut across ideological lines and involved a diverse range of groups. Similarly, both forms of protest are highlighted by their capacity to pressure authoritative figures and to generate lively debate. However, they also share important shortcomings that highlight broader challenges facing civic engagement and politics in Egypt. For example, instead of emphasizing an institutional role for students in decision making mechanisms, the students increasingly emphasized a paternalistic relationship between the administration and students.

However, the nature of participation raises certain red flags. After the administration conceded institutional roles for students on decision making bodies of the University, many student seats went unfilled. Students had demonstrated a distinct capacity for protest, but an inability to engage the administration constructively on policy and reforms, a challenge that Egyptian politics in general has been crippled by in the past two years. With groups willing to take their grievances to the street but unwilling and often unable to build consensus or develop concrete policy prescriptions, street protest often remains the only readily available form of politics. Many of the student strikers at AUC fell into this trap, one that has brought Egyptian politics to the brink in recent days.

The strike taught all of us a number of things. Personally, it drove home the importance of civic engagement and citizenship education, as active traditions of civic engagement and community participation generally foster healthier forms of politics and consensus building. During my year at AUC, I was fortunate enough to work on a number of projects at the interstices of citizenship and education, projects that gave me hope for a Egypt where consensus and constructive engagement are foundational aspects of how politics is done.
ALUMNI UPDATES

1981—1982

AUC’s first presidential intern, Frank Packard (President, 1981-82), has spent the last 25 years working in finance in Hong Kong and Tokyo, Japan. He currently lives in Tokyo, where he is a partner in a boutique investment firm that distributes hedge funds and private equity funds to institutional investors.

1982—1983

Elizabeth “Libby” Thompson (President, 1982-83) is an associate professor of history, specializing in the Middle East, at the University of Virginia. Her newest book, Justice Interrupted: The Struggle for Constitutional Government in the Middle East was published by Harvard University Press and came out this past April. She is currently finishing another book, entitled Scarlett in Cairo, Mammy in Damascus: Cinema and the Politics of Late Colonialism.

Roy Oppenheim (President, 1982-83) is the co-founder and senior partner of Oppenheim Law in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He founded the law firm in 1989 with his wife, Ellen, who serves as the firm’s managing partner.
**INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**1984—1985**

Ted Osius (President, 1984–85) is now a senior visiting State Department fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. and anticipates returning to the Department of State soon. Ted and his spouse, Clayton Bond, were married in Vancouver in 2006 and hope to adopt a child this year.

**1988—1989**

Nathan Martin (Provost, 1988–1989) is working as the director of student life at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, where he helps organize learning outside the classroom and supports students as they make their way through rabbinical studies. An avid cyclist who bikes to work every day, he is part of a group trying to create a new “co-housing” neighborhood in the city and devotes his energies to being the best parent he can to his six-year-old daughter Hadassah and three-year-old son Yehuda. He misses Cairo and hopes to visit soon.

**1989—1990**

Suzanne Malveaux (TV Center, 1989–90) is an Emmy award-winning anchor, co-anchor for CNN's Around the World, and anchor for CNN Newsroom. Suzanne covered the White House for 10 years as a White House correspondent under Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama. She has also interviewed all five living presidents and several first ladies. She has traveled to Europe, Africa, the Balkans, Latin America, Southeast Asia, Australia and the Middle East.

Katherine “Amira” Bennison (Library, 1989–90) is a lecturer in Middle Eastern and Islamic studies at the University of Cambridge.
**PRESIDENTIAL INTERNSHIP NEWSLETTER**

**1990—1991**

**Bradley Cook (President, 1990-91)** is the provost at Southern Utah University and currently resides in Cedar City, Utah with his wife and four children.

**Sharon Epperson (TV Center, 1990-91)** is a senior energy and personal finance correspondent for CNBC and an adjunct assistant professor in the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. In 2010, she received the Making the Difference Award from the National Foundation for Credit Counseling and the ICON Growth Award from General Electric for her leadership in working to improve financial literacy worldwide.

**1991-92**

**Sutherland Miller (President, 1991-92)** serves as the chief of party for the Knowledge Sharing and Analysis project, an initiative to advise the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Africa Bureau in knowledge management, performance monitoring, and identifying and disseminating best practices related to trade development. Since his internship, Sutherland has worked on projects in 39 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.
Hanif Vanjaria (Development, 1991-92) and Patricia (Lally) Vanjaria (Rare Books, 1991-92) have been married for 15 years. They have an 11-year-old son, Oliver, and two-year-old German Shepherd, Turner (affectionately named after the Atlanta Braves stadium). They have lived in Atlanta for the past 11 years.

Following their stint at AUC, Hanif and Patricia have been employed in financial services and still speak Arabic when possible. Hanif obtained his master’s in accounting from Georgia State University. Patricia obtained her master’s degree in Arab studies from Georgetown University after returning from Egypt and working in New York.

They love to teach Oliver about the Middle East and share their wonderful experiences from their days as AUC interns with him. Recently, they delivered a presentation to Oliver’s class on the Middle East and North Africa. Patricia says the children loved it, but not as much as Hanif and she did. It definitely brought them back to Cairo.

Hanif and Patricia would love to hear from any former AUC interns and would be happy to meet up with those passing through Atlanta.

1993—1994

Mary Nachtrieb (President, 1993-94) is an academic editor at the International Islamic Publishing House. She currently lives in Muscat, Oman with her husband (an Egyptian-American) and two children.

Celka Staughn (TV Center, 1993-94) made her first post-revolution trip to Cairo over the New Year. While she expected changes, she was astounded particularly by those around the AUC campus in Tahrir Square, and even more surprised that the campus and expanded bookstore were still open. Most of all, she was surprised that some of the guards remembered her and Noor Khan (a former CASA student and history instructor). Celka is currently the Andrew W. Mellon Director of Academic Programs at Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas.
Alex Dessouky (AUC Press, 1996-97) was recently promoted to vice president of Marketing at V2 Wine Group of Sonoma. His decade of marketing experience in the alcoholic beverage industry began in Egypt, where he helped launch Carlsberg Beer.

Alanna Shaikh (President, 1997-98) is a global health and development specialist currently based in Baku, Azerbaijan. As a TED Senior Fellow, Alanna wrote about the biggest challenges in global wellness in her book, What’s Killing Us, and addressed the challenges of Alzheimer’s disease in her 2012 TED Talk. She runs a blog, Blood and Milk, which she utilizes to make global development issues accessible and understandable.

Charles Duhigg (Caravan, 1997-98) is an award-winning journalist for the New York Times and author of The Power of Habit, a book on the science of habit formation and its applications amongst individuals, companies and societies.

Marcie Handler (Theban Mapping Project, 1997-98) completed her PhD in classics at the University of Cincinnati in 2012. She currently teaches Latin and western civilization courses at Covington Latin School in Covington, Kentucky.
Lucy Kurtzer-Ellenbogen (Caravan, 1998-99) is a senior program officer in the Center for Conflict Management at the United States Institute of Peace, where she coordinates the institute’s work on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Since her internship, Lucy has spent considerable amounts of time in Egypt, Israel, Palestine and Yemen.

Antony Hudek (Public Relations, 1999-00) is a senior art history lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU). Prior to his position at LJMU, Antony was a Mellon Fellow at the University College of London. He holds a master’s and PhD in art history from Courtauld Institute of Art in London.

Diana Heise (Web Development, 2001-02) earned her MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York. She spent the previous year in Mauritius on a Fulbright Fellowship in the creative and performing arts. She is currently a resident artist at The Studios, Inc. in Kansas City, Missouri.

Heidi Saman (Public Relations, 2001-02) earned her MFA in film from Temple University in 2007 and is currently an associate producer of NPR’s Fresh Air with Terry Gross. As a graduate student, she received the Princess Grace Award, one of the most important nationally competitive student film awards, for her thesis film, The Maid, a short film shot in Cairo.

Anders Blewett (DDC, 2003-2004) is a Montana state senator and attorney at Hoyt and Blewett PLLC.
Masha Kirasirova (Rare Books, 2005-06) completed her PhD in history and Middle Eastern and Islamic studies at New York University. She will be a faculty fellow at NYU in Abu Dhabi starting in the fall.

Fauzia Dawood (Gerhart Center, 2007-08) completed her MBA at Yale University in 2012. She is currently an associate director at Community Counseling Service.

Kristina Hallez (Social Research, 2007-08) graduated in May from John Hopkins with a master's in public policy and a certificate in international development.

While a CASA II fellow in the fall, Stephen Kalin (Institutional Advancement, 2009-10) was a freelance journalist and advised the 2012 - 2013 Presidential Interns cohort. He recently accepted a reporter position with the Associated Press in Hartford, Connecticut. He hopes to return to the Middle East later this year.

After working in the Office of the Provost, Sam Levine (Provost, 2009-10) was accepted to Teach for America. He taught middle school science at the SEED School in Washington, D.C. from 2010 to 2012, and recently landed at an education technology company called Amplify. Amplify designs tablets and curriculum for the K-12 market, and just launched its product nationwide. Sam really enjoys working in education and living in New York, but also misses Cairo. He hopes to return soon.
Michelle Ha (President, 2011-12) was a 2012 - 2013 CASA fellow in Cairo. She will be attending Harvard Law School in the fall to pursue her JD.

Following his internship, Ben Levison (Development, 2011-12) was a field organizer for the Obama campaign in New Hampshire. He currently lives in Washington, D.C. and is an intern for Congressman Jerrold Nadler.

Megan Prier (DDC, 2011-12) is working toward her master’s in design for sustainable development at Chalmers University in Sweden. She recently worked in Zanzibar, Tanzania for two months as part of a reality-based course. After completing her degree, Megan hopes to work somewhere in Africa (maybe Egypt!).

Amy Prosser (Finance, 2011-12) enjoyed her time in Cairo so much that she decided to stay. She is a fifth grade teacher at Narmer American College in New Cairo.

Special Thanks To:

**MEET THE 2013-2014 CLASS**

**Paul DiFiore - Office of the Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance**

Paul was born and raised in Dallas, TX, but found his way east to Davidson College in North Carolina. There his primary academic concentrations were political science, religion, Arabic and Spanish. Outside of the classroom, however, he participated in student government as the president of his class, took to the stage in theater performances and played Ultimate Frisbee on the men's club team. He enjoys poetry and asking questions. He also loves music and will definitely make you a CD if you offer to return the favor. His personality type is INFJ and his spirit animal is a wolf.

Previously, Paul has worked for the U.S. Department of State and Texas Instruments, and he spent the summer working for Hunt Oil in Dallas. He is excited for anything that may come in Cairo, whether it be fresh friendships, freedom fighters or simply foreign frisbees.

**Marjon Momand - Office of Communications**

Marjon graduated from UC Berkeley, where she studied political science and Arabic. At Berkeley, she was managing editor of *Al-Bayan*, a Muslim student publication, and wrote her senior thesis on religious freedom in the Muslim world. Her passion for studying the intersection between human rights and politics was cultivated through a summer internship at the Enough Project, an organization in Washington, D.C. that aims to end genocide and crimes against humanity. In the future, she hopes to pursue a career in international relations that would nurture her interest in human rights.

Marjon looks forward to being at AUC and hopes she can hone her Arabic speaking skills. She has studied Arabic for four years and spent a summer in Jordan through the Critical Language Scholarship. She can't wait to explore more of the Middle East.

**Colleen Devlin - Desert Development Center**

A McLean, VA native, Colleen Devlin graduated from the College of William & Mary (W&M) with dual degrees in public policy and environmental science and policy with a hydrology concentration. While at W&M, Colleen was employed as a social conflict coder for the Social Conflict in Africa Database. As a member of the Environment, Food and Conflict research team, she spent the Summer of 2012 in Jinja, Uganda teaching Geographic Information Systems to scientists at the National Fisheries Resources Research Institute and conducting independent research on water security. Colleen is looking forward to continuing her studies of the relationship between human systems and the environment as the Desert Development Center intern.
Katie Bentivoglio - Office of the President

Katie graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia University, with a double major in political science and Middle Eastern, South Asian and African studies. At Columbia, she was president of the Columbia Debate Team, a resident adviser and a writer for the Columbia Spectator. Katie has taken Modern Standard Arabic for four years, including three summers studying in Tunisia and Morocco with the Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship. Katie first lived in Egypt during the summer of 2012, when she interned at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and witnessed Egypt’s historic presidential elections. She then wrote her senior thesis on the role of sharia in the 2012 Egyptian constitution, receiving departmental honors. Katie eagerly anticipates returning to Egypt, joining the AUC community and brushing up her Egyptian dialect by wandering the streets of Cairo.

Michael Memari - Office of the Provost

Michael is from San Diego, California. He graduated Phi Alpha Theta and with honors from Georgetown University, where he majored in Middle Eastern studies and foreign affairs. While at Georgetown, he was involved in student government, interfaith dialogue and various research opportunities pertaining to the Middle East and Central Asia. He also interned for Leadership Initiatives, an NGO providing specialized training to local communities and empowering young entrepreneurs in Nigeria. He is interested in authoritarian breakdown, democratic consolidation and international development.

Michael is captivated by Middle Eastern history, art and culture. Knowing both Spanish and Farsi, he is eager to start learning Arabic. Michael enjoys drawing in the Persian miniaturist style, reading and writing poetry, and singing. After Cairo, he hopes to pursue a PhD in Middle Eastern or Islamic history. Michael aspires to work for a government agency in Washington, D.C. and to later become a professor.

Miriam Hauser - Office of Sustainability

Miriam Hauser is from Silver Spring, Maryland. She graduated with high honors and Phi Beta Kappa from Swarthmore College with a major in English literature and a minor in Islamic studies. She studied Arabic for four years in college and studied abroad as a junior in Amman, Jordan with CIEE’s Arabic language program. Miriam was a member for two years of a peer advocacy and support group run out of the dean’s office, and hopes to become a social worker, working specifically with refugee populations. In her free time, she reads, bakes and plays the violin. She is excited to be joining the AUC community, living in Egypt and honing her Arabic.
The Presidential Internship Program

Don’t forget to stay in touch! Update your contact information or tell us what’s new in your life by emailing interns@aucegypt.edu.